

Thankful I Could Help

I have read with some amusement the comments regarding the "connection" and seeming disgust expressed by some, that NSA received funds from the CIA.

In June of 1951 I received a grant from NSA to attend a conference on student government at Seeshaupt, Bavaria and later received an additional grant from the Free University, to study at the Free University of Berlin, Germany.

On Aug. 18 I had occasion to tour East Berlin and since there were many German youth who had never seen a Negro and had some fairly disgusting opinions about conditions in the United States. I felt it my duty as "an American" to clear up some points. I was 26 then and had just completed undergraduate studies. My approach would probably be different now, but I autographed papers and books for German students in the Eastern Zone of Berlin simply "As An American Negro I hate Communism."

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I received a great deal of publicity for this simple act that I felt necessary at the time to clarify for some very misguided people things in the United States.

I really couldn't have cared less where the money came from that I was spending. According to The Times (Feb. 6), it was some \$27,000 from the CIA. I really couldn't care less.

Your comment, "Originally, prospective spies and information-gatherers were not sought as much by the CIA as good red-blooded American boys and girls who would go to student gatherings to represent the American way of life . . ." was indicative of what I felt and if the CIA sponsored my trip financially I am grateful because I think I

rendered as great a service to "my country" during those days in East Germany, getting a few things straight, as I did during the 3½ years I spent in the U.S. Army.

The statement made by James E. Edwards that "most Americans who went abroad under such auspices were talked to by the government when they returned . . ." was not the case with me.

I was warned by the authorities in West Berlin that I should not return to the East for safety purposes. This, I ignored and returned to the East many times to again put down some of the thinking that was going on by many German youth, then my student counterpart. I cared little for the supposed danger involved.

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I had occasion to speak directly with the Communists' Freie Deutsche Jugend (Free German Youth or FDJ) from the East Zone and also RIAS, the American sponsored radio station in West Berlin, which has a coverage of about 90% of Soviet residents as a contact with the "free" world.

I said what I felt—my utter distaste for communism and that it certainly couldn't be a solution to the "race" problem in the United States.

I have been looking over some clippings and the Information Bulletin, a monthly magazine of the office of the U.S. High Commissioner for Germany dated September 1951 and have renewed my thinking in this regard . . . I really couldn't care less where the money came from . . . if I was an instrument, even unknowingly, for the spread of truth, then I am thankful I could help in a small way.

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... Nothing Wrong Where Useful

Congratulations on the factual and carefully documented report (Feb. 26) on the relationship of the CIA and the National Students Assn.

It is the first authentic and intelligent account of the facts which I have observed in the news media.

All who read and understand the article will be convinced of the tremendous importance and the contribution of the CIA to our international intelligence.

The very existence of our country depends upon its intelligence information which must be obtained by not when every other major country

operates with great success in the same manner?

I see nothing wrong in using students where they are useful. Our armed forces are made up largely of those of student age. Russia started financing international Communist student conferences long before we did. Russia has paid innumerable young citizens of our country to attend its "student" conferences from Cuba to Moscow. But who among the self-annointed "intellectuals" who are blasting the CIA have complained?

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